SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1882.

The regular circulation of THE SUN for the week ending Feb. 11, 1882, was:

The Speaker's Delay.

Total for the week.....

We are inslined to think that the Dem crats made a wise choice in selecting Mr. CHARLES E. PATTERSON for Speaker of the Assembly, but we think Mr. Parrenson's delay in making up the committees of the lower House of the Legislature is unreason-

He served in the last Assembly, and therefore knows the old members. He was a candidate for weeks before he was elected, and had ample opportunity to become acquainted with the new ones. Is it possible that when he was finally called to the chair be had not yet been able to make up his mind about how the leading committees ought to be constituted?

He might not have been sure what particular members the great insurance companies of New York wanted on the Insurance Committee, or just who would be deemed most efficient in the Committee on Railroads by the management of the New York Central Railroad, but Mr. HUSTED and Mr. DEPEW could readily supply this information, and the Speaker would be safe in assigning to other committees the persons they recommended for these.

The delay is doubtless due chiefly to considerations which are purely political. There is a natural desire to end the legislative deadlock in the Senate as well as in the Assembly, and the Democrats will, of course, further this object if they can, by making the Assembly committees satisfactory to both factions. But we trust Mr. PATTERSON will do nothing to facilitate the election of JOHN C. Jacobs as President of the Senate. The Democrats would like to drop him. The leaders in New York freely admit as much. They admit that he is not the right man to put forward as a representative Democrat; and the advantage of having a good Speaker of the Assembly will be nullified by intrusting the lead of the party in the Senate to unworthy hands.

No better means now exists for decreasing the Democratic vote in this State next November than the election of JOHN C. JACOBS to the Presidency of the State Senate.

Fraud Justified by a Quaker.

The subjoined letter from a member of the Society of Friends who lives at Dennard, Monroe County, Alabama, goes so boldly into the justification of the fraud of 1876-7 from a moral, philanthropic, and even religious point of view, that we print it herewith:

" To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-I drop thee a line to have three discontinue THE SUN directed to William FREEMAN which I paid for in a club to the Phrenological Journal last year, when I ceased to take it myself, and now : Wish to give thee a few ideas as to why I got tired of so large and extensive a paper, and perhaps it may give thee a hint of value in case thee is as willing to receive the truth as thee is to tell others to stick to the truth.

Thee has been using the word fraudulent when speak ing of our ex-President, until I have, as well as many others I know, become thoroughly disgusted. If thee had lived in Florida, as I did previous to his election and seen the persecution, even unto death in many cases (never reported even), thee would not say Frandutent ex-President again, I assure thee, for no man of any extended observation doubts for a moment that had the Demograts let the colored folks and poor whites vote as they desired to, there would have been a large Republi things go on here now. Only two months ago a white man living not a mile from me had a man in his employ as a cropper in cotton growing, and he had a mare to come up missing one morning, some days after she foaled a colt, so the owner supposed some one had stolen the mare, and that the man had some knowledge of the act; so, after some days' unavailable search for the mare, he took the colored man out in the woods and stripped him and whipped him with his stirrup leather ursil he brought the blood on his back. In a few days deep ditch, where she had mired down. I have not the loast idea any one here will take any steps to bring the white man to justice for this overlearing and outraceous act. Near about the same time the mare was stolen, four white boys, scarcely of age, in the next county across the river went to the house of an old colored man, and deliberately shot him, without any cause for the act. I have inquired of the pincy wood men, who depend for their cash on the more wealthy planters, how ars, and they tell me they prefer the Republican side but cannot get a job of work if they vote that ticket, so vote the Democratic from necessity. As ever thy

" OLIVER TAYLOR." With the argument here presented the public are familiar. It has been offered again and again by Republican politicians of a moral tone, though never more palvely than here. Friend OLIVER TAYLOR thinks and we dare say that he thinks sincerely, that it is a valid and sufficient argument. We call his attention to the points in which it is vitally and fatally insufficient and erroneous.

The laws of the country prescribe that the votes of citizens for electors of President and Vice-President shall be east in a certain manper, shall be counted in a certain manner, and certified in a certain manner; that the electors thus chosen shall meet and cast their votes and record them, all according to the fixed and positive provisions of these laws. None of these things is left to the feelings or the judgment of individuals; they are all regulated by law. Whatever is done according to law in these matters is right, and must stand as the final decision of the people; and whatever is not done according to law.

Now Friend TAYLOR comes in and says that, whereas the returns of the election in strict accordance with the law, did not express the real sentiments of the people, be cause certain men were terrorized or buildozed into voting the Democratic ticket when they really wished to vote the Republican ticket, all these returns ought to be set aside; and whereas, in accordance with these legal returns, one set of men were elected, this set of men ought not to have the offices, but their opponents, who, by the returns, appeared to be defeated, should really have them, because Mr. Taylor believes that if the voters had not been terrorized and bulblozed, the defented candidates would have been elected and the elected candidates would have been defeated. This is the reasoning of our Quaker correspondent; and on such reasonher as this he pretends that RUTHERFORD B. HAVES was not a Fraudulent President.

Now we tell OLIVER TAYLOR that his rensouing is false. It is the votes that are really east that should determine the election. The reasons of the citizen for voting as he does cannot be inquired Men may vote from interested motives, but that does not justify the canvaluers in throwing out their ballots, still less in reversing them and counting them on the other side. Besides, if this election in Florida was vitated by terrorism, the law prescribes the means which should be taken to correct it, and it cannot be corrected in any other way. No matter if the regular returns were entirely perverted through bulldozing and terrorisman assertion that cannot possibly be trueno matter even if they were a great deal worse

not be corrected at all. Otherwise a government by elections is impossible, and everything is remitted to the arbitrary will, the passion, and the caprice of individuals, who, for the time being, become usurpers and despots, deciding not according to the judgment of the people as expressed by their ballots, but according to their own good pleasure.

Now, were the proper legal methods of correcting errors in the election applied in Florida in 1876? Mr. Taylon makes no report on this head; but it is notorious that from several counties. of the State conflicting sets of election re-

turns were sent up by election officers, who, as citizens, belonged to one or the other of the two political parties. These conflicting returns were finally passed upon by the Supreme Court of the State, a majority of whose members were Republicans. This tribunal, after hearing all the evidence that there was to be presented in the case by Republicans and Democrats, finally adjudged that the Democratic electors in Florida were the only ones really chosen; and therefore when the Republican candidates for electors pretended to cast the vote of the State they did what they had no right to do.

This was the most weighty and conclusive adjudication possible; and it confirmed the fact that the legal and regular election belonged to Mr. TILDEN. But through the application of party machinery, brought to bear by means of the unconstitutional Electoral Commission at Washington, the votes of the Democratic electors of Florida were set aside, not on any legal proof, because the Supreme Court of Florida had decided that question the other way, but simply because the Republican majority of the Commission were determined at all hazards to keep their party in power. Thus it was that the votes of the real electors of the State were rejected and the fraudulent and illegal votes of the defeated Republican electors were counted as good and sufficient. And in this way RUTH-ERPORD B. HAYES was fraudulently declared to be President when SAMUEL J. TILDEN had

really been elected. OLIVER TAYLOR should understand that his plan of settling election disputes according to the impressions, the belief, and the interest of individuals of the defeated party, and not according to the letter of the law, is a plan that, if persisted in, cannot work anything but anarchy, and, in the end, military despotism. His argument to prove that HAYES was not a Fraudulent President only tends to fasten the title more indelibly than ever upon that miserable man.

Peru's Resources and her Use of Them. Mr. BLAINE's hope of diverting public atention from his more flagrant shortcomings, by the specious project of an International Conference, will doubtless be extinguished when the information which Mr. SPRINGER has called for is communicated by the President to Congress. We may take for granted. however, that the ex-Secretary will try to again evade the gist of the charge against him, to wit, the arrogant and unwarranted, if not corrupt, provocation of a friendly power. Instead of meeting this issue squarely, Mr. BLAINE will fall back on the second line of defence indicated in his Washington interview, and seek to arouse our sympathies for the sad fate of Peru, which, as he pretends, is threatened with a destruction as complete and cruel as the partition of Poland. Inasmuch as this part of his plea is said to have wrought upon Mr. R. G. INGERSOLL'S sensibilities, and may possibly affect some other persons not conversant with the facts, it may be well to state what are the natural resources of Peru, to what account she has turned them, and how far they will be curtailed by the just claims of Chili. "HUMBOLDT," says Mr. BLAINE, with a

goes on to say, "will leave it among the assumes that the average schoolboy is as ignorant as an ex-Secretary of State shows himself to be in the sentence quoted. HUM-BOLDT's opinion was expressed in 1804, while it was not till 1840 that guano and the nitrates were known in Europe or America to possess any commercial value as articles of export. Neither of these products figured in HUMBOLDT's estimate of Peruvian resources. He had nothing in view but what Mr. BLAINE has chosen to describe as the desert and the mountains, which, however, under the Ineas and under the Spanish domination, did indeed yield boundless wealth. What impressed the German traveller was, first, the record of the enormous quantity of silver extracted from the mines of Peru during the three centuries succeeding the Spanish conquest; and, secondly, the traces which he discovered on every hand of a vast, elaborate, and lucrative system of agriculture organized by the native rulers, but abandoned by the lazy, thriftless, and barbarous invaders. HUM-BOLDT'S researches, verified and supplemented by the work of subsequent explorers, have shown that the Incas practised irrigation on a greater scale and with more minutely diffused and effective appliances than had been exhibited by the Moors in southern Spain; and, further, that they were aware of the properties of the guano deposits near their coasts, and applied them in a careful, economical way to the end for which nature herself seems to have designed them, namely, the fertiliza-Florida, counted, made up, and certified in | tion of the Peruvian fields. Not gold and silver, which were not media of exchange, or used for any but art purposes under the Incas, but a skilled and unremitting tillage of what Mr. BLAINE sees fit to denominate a "desert," was the source of the wealth which supported a teeming population on a high level of average well-being, and left an ample surplus for public works and foreign wars.

> The first and most fatal step in the downward course of Peru was taken when the Spanish conquerors summarily and completely discarded agriculture, and consigned the bulk of the native inhabitants to forced labor in the mines. For more than three hundred years afterward the whole population of Peru may be said to have subsisted primarily and almost exclusively on the treasures drawn from what Mr. BLAINE sirily refers to as "the mountains," But it may at least be said for mining that it is an indusry, although it is indisputably the most uncertain and demoralizing pursuit on which a nation can rely for its sole means of support. The returns are variable, while the labor is arduous and incessant; and accordingly the Peruvians began to lose their taste for mining in the fourth decade of our century. when the secret known to the Incus was reliscovered, and the fertilizing properties of heir guano and mitrates seemed to offer the neans of living without any work at all. The idea of using these precious deposits, as American farmers would employ the manure collected on their farms, to increase the production of their own soil, never seems o have dawned upon a people who, taken as a whole, are probably the most lazy, shiftless, and degenerate on the face of the

be corrected in the legal way or they could of these staples understood than the sole preoccupation of the Peruvians was to deal with them precisely as a spendthrift deals with his capital, and turn promptly into cash the only natural resources whose development entailed on them no labor whatsoever. So they sold their guano as fast as the foreign purchasers could remove it, levied huge taxes on the products which hard-working strangers, chiefly Chilians, extracted from the nitre beds, and for a time all went swimmingly.

By and by, however, the Peruvians found out what they, in common with the Turks and Egyptians, regarded as a precious finandal secret, viz., that if, instead of meeting current expenditure with the public revenues, they should assign these for interest on a foreign loan, they might lay their hands on an enormous lump sum of money, and revel for a few years in unstinted outlay and reckless luxury. Accordingly Peru began to borrow, and the total amount of her foreign loans now outstanding is \$225,000,000, on which not a coupon has been paid since 1876. She has also a domestic debt estimated at upward of \$125,000,000, but this we may treat with the indifference displayed by the Peruvian authorities, who have never even professed an intention of paying it. To the foreign bondholders not only are the revenues of the public railways and the receipts of the Custom Houses distinctly pledged, but every ounce of guano remaining on the islands is included in the mortgage. As for the nitrate deposits of Tarapaca, these, as we have said, are owned by private individuals, and the State can only derive profit from them by way of taxation. All the revenue accruing from this source ought to have gone to foreign holders of Peruvian bonds, but, we repeat, they have not since 1876 received a penny of interest.

Now, before recalling just what amount of

territory is claimed as a war indemnity by Chili, and inquiring with how much propriety its surrender may be likened to the oss of our Southern and Pacific States, let us see how much guano is now left on the coast islands, and how large a revenue Peru or Chill could derive by an export tax levied on the nitrates of Tarapaca. A report made to the Chilian Government a year ago computed all the marketable guano then remaining in the Peruvian deposits at 525,000 tons. These figures seem to be confirmed by a recent English estimate, which, after deducting this year's shipments, does not place the residue higher than 300,000 tons. This, at the average net value of \$30 per ton, would represent no more than \$9,000,000, or considerably less than one year's interest on the foreign loan. As for the annual production of nitrates, the average during the last ten years has not exceeded 200,000 tons, nor, as experiment has shown, can the deliveries be much increased in the present state of the demand without sensibly lowering the market price. If, then, we suppose so large an export tax as \$30 per ton to be levied, the gross income from this source would not exceed \$6,000,000. It is the subtraction of this item of revenue (every dollar of which Peru owed to her bondholders and of the trivial remnant of guano left on her islands (not one ounce of which Peru has any right to appropriate) which Mr. BLAINE pretends is equivalent to the dismemberment which our Union would have suffered by the loss of the eleven seceding States together with the whole Pacific coast.

What is the territorial indemnity with which Chili asks that her bankrupt assallant should compensate her for the sacrifices entailed by war? She demands the permanent cession of the province of Tarapaca, which contains no mines and produces nothing of commercial value except the nitrates, and which comprises less than one-twentleth of the territory and little more than one per cent, of the population of Peru. Such were the reasonable terms offered and rejected at the Arica conference. Now Chill claims, in addition delicious affectation of learning, "declared | and as an offset to the outlay involved in the Peru to be the richest country on the globe | needless prolongation of the war, a money in natural wealth. But Chill," Mr. BLAINE | indemnity of \$20,000,000, payment to be sevian bondholders, with whom Chili has had ble understanding, but to prevent some selfstyled Peruvian patriot from cheating his country's creditors by selzing the most avail-

defray the cost of a new attack on Chili. nently in Chilian hands, they would jointly Pacific States-all the sources of national wake up to the necessity the better.

The Winter Here and in England.

been in some respects more or less remarkyet be called exceptional.

If the great and almost unexampled snow month and for early March shall befull us, forecast, the farmers may have no reason for | tion in the mode of their election. complaint because of them. An abundance of

good thing for the crops. In England, however, the winter of 1881-82 o that the London Nature says it bids fair to leave its mark in the annals of meteorology

in an unmistakable manner. event has justified his prediction.

month the barometer fell at the Butt of Lewis, in the Hebrides, to probably the lowest point ever recorded in the British Islands. Several days of stormy weather occurred throughout the kingdom, with very high wind pressures at Greenwich. December was an average month as regarded its meteorology. About the middle of it there was a slight frost, but it did not seriously check the growth of the grass. During January the temperature was a long way above the average over nearly the whole of the British Islands and the greater portion of northern Europe. Many late and early flowering plants presented "an appearance and a bloom it | whose hands were unstained with patronage, would be difficult to parallel in the experiences of the past." Southerly winds set in, characterized by a remarkable volume and persistency, and also by "a mildness and a

experienced toward the end of Soptember." The mild weather of January was also accompanied by an extraordinarily high barometer, the highest having occurred on the formed for the express purpose of com-18th of January at Oxford-30,970 inches at | manding patronage. This practice of dick-1808 and 1820 to find records of higher baromoters in England.

The weather of a year ago was strikingly different. In the middle of January, 1881, a tremendous gale swept over the British Islands, there was a heavy snowfall, and the temperature of the month averaged unusually low.

The Scrutin de Liste in Italy. There seems at first sight something astonishing in the news from Rome that Signor Depretis has succeeded in carrying through the Italian Chamber of Deputies a counterpart of the project which proved fatal to the GAMBETTA Ministry in France. How does it happen that the Italian Premier, whom nebody would compare with the head of the late French Cabinet in respect of popularity and influence, can secure the adoption of the scrutin de liste, a result which the greatest organizer and orator in France has striven in vain to compass? Obviously, the fact cannot be explained on the ground of an exceptional difficulty experienced in building up a permanent majority out of the discordant elements of the popular branch of the French Legislature, for no assembly was ever more split up into factions than the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

The two methods of election whose respective merits are so vehemently discussed in France and Italy are familiar enough to us, seeing that the Presidential electors allotted to a given State are voted for on a State ticket analogous to the scrutin de liste, while our members of Congress are voted for on a district ticket corresponding to the scrutin d'arrondissement. The Constitution of the United States does not debar us from electing members of Congress on a State ticket, but, for two reasons, the district system is strongly rooted in public favor. In the first place, the mode of choosing Congressmen by districts accords with the traditional habits of local self-government, which are justly looked upon as the firmest guarantees of our national liberties. In the second place, the amount of Federal patronage practically controlled by a Congressman n most districts is insignificant. It cannot be said to clothe him with any formidable power of corruption and intimidation, much less does it make of him a veritable petty despot. While, therefore, in this country members of our Federal lower House might have no very strong motives for opposing the mode of electing Congressmen on State tickets, our people have the strongest reasons for preferring the district method. because under it the inhabitants of a particular locality exercise at stated seasons a direct control over their representative, while they have no reason to fear interference on his part in their local concerns.

It by no means follows, however, that because the district system, or scrutin d'arrondissement, is obviously the best for us, its superiority is equally self-evident in European cured by leaving Arica and the guano islands | countries. Many of the blunders made in the poorest. She will take the guano and the in pledge. But it may be said. Why reproduction of elective machinery are due to nitrates, and leave to Peru the desert and should Chili wish to control, even tempora- the assumption that what has suited one set the mountains." Here, again, Mr. BLAINE rily, the guano deposits, which belong to the of political conditions must needs work well foreign holders of Peruvian bonds? The an- in another. So far, indeed, as Italy is conswer is obvious. Not to defraud the Peru- cerned, the objections to the district system are much less weighty than in the from the outbreak of the war the best possi- case of France. Owing to the circumstances under which the Italian peninsula became united under the house of Savoy, it has as yet proved impossible able capital within his reach, and using it to to bring about a high degree of centralization. In the successive absorption of Lom-Even if the province of Tacna, as well as bardy, Tuscany, the Neapolitan provinces, that of Tarapaca, were to remain perma- the Marches, and Venetia, it was found indispensable to sanction such powers of local represent a loss of less than one-fifteenth of | self-government as existed in the municipalithe Peruvian territory. There would still re- ties and rural districts. The degree of conmain to Peru all the sugar lands, all the trol exercised over local offices and affairs by cotton lands, all the mines, which correspond the central Government being thus very to the natura' resources of our Southern and much more limited than in the case of France, it follows that there is relatively prosperity which the Incas or the Spaniards | little patronage to tempt the cupidity of a knew-all the elements of wealth contem- Deputy. He is far from being the petty auplated by HUMBOLDT when he pronounced toerat he would be if, through the safe of his Peru the richest country in the world. It is vote to the Ministry, every wheel and spring true the present generation of the Peruvians. of the local administrative machinery could like their ancestors, would have to go to be brought to obey the secret impulse of his work, and we may add that the sooner they | hand. So far, therefore, as his selfish interests are concerned, he has little ground for offering a desperate resistance to the scrutia de liste. On the other hand, the Italian no less The weather of our present winter has than the French Ministry would naturally prefer the latter system of election, because able. Low temperatures were long in com- it practically gives the power of selecting ing, the ground was not frozen until late. Deputies to the leading managers of the the grass continued green beyond the usual party machine, as we see illustrated in our time, and February was here before we ex- own country when a State convention meets perienced any considerable snowfall. As to nominate Presidential electors. It is fair compared with the average of the winters for | to add that in the Italian peninsula, whose the last ten years, however, this one cannot | unity is rather a geographical than an ethnical, historical, and social fact, disruptive agencies are still powerful, and the cohesive storms which are predicted for the present | forces may need strengthening at the cost of some sacrifices of local self rule, which in we shall have reason hereafter to talk of | the United States would be needless and perextraordinary winter weather. But up to | nicious. But whatever importance should be this time the season has not greatly attached to this consideration, we may be departed from the usual course in the United | sure that DEPRETIS could never have suc-States. It has, moreover, been a favorable | ceeded where Gamberta failed, had the one so far as the interests of agriculture are l'incinbers of the Italian Chamber felt themconcerned. Even if the snow storms yet to selves to be threatened with the loss of local come prove as heavy as the weather prophets | dignity and authority by the proposed altera-

When we turn from Italy to France, we snow, cushloning the ground, is apt to be a | find that the actual working of the scrutin "arroadissement, or district tickets, in the atter country is open to serious objections. has so far been a very unusual one; so much | and that Gambetta's arguments on behalf of departmental tickets are much more likely to impress the people at large than the selfseeking members of the present Chamber of The calendar winter was preceded by a Deputies. We must not forget that France remenders storm all over the islands on the | possesses one of the most intensely central-14th of October, which was especially disas- ized governments that have ever existed trous to life and property, the wind pressure upon the carth. We can help ourselves to reaching the unprecedented amount of 53 | form some conception of it if we suppose pounds at Greenwich. Toward the end of our Chief Magistrate and his Cabinet to hat month the temperature fell low enough | exercise (uncontrolled by the Senate) not produce frost on the ground. That pre- only all the present Federal patronage, aged an open winter, according to Sir Ron- but the right of appointment to every EET CHRISTISON, a very shrewd student of State, county, town, and village office, the weather, who declared that frost in Scot- | whether of an administrative, judicial, disciland at so early a date was pretty sure to be | pilnary, or sanitary kind. Even then the successfed by mild temperatures. And the parallel would be imperfect, for the number of officeholders in France is, relatively to the November was the warmest known in north | population, much larger than in the United Britain for the past 118 years, or since ther- | States, although in the latter case we are mometers began to be employed to record | careful to keep in view all the Federal, State, than OLIVER TAYLOR represents, they must globe. No sooner was the commercial value | the temperature. On the 27th of the same | and local authorities combined. Moreover. | There are indications that Persia has been

the range of official interference with private concerns and Individual initiative is much wider, and the method of intrusion more inquisitive and dictatorial, than would be tolerated by a people of Anglo-Saxon stock.

Now, this vast and intricate mechanism of

official surveillance and control was formerly

managed in a given arrondissement by the

Ministry for the time being through its ap-

pointee, the Prefect, and so long as the latter was not only ostensibly but really the agent of the central power, a Deputy who managed to get himself elected in defiance of the Prefeet was a genuine tribune of the people, and whose vote faithfully reflected the will of his constituents. The disorganization of parties, however, in the French Legislature during the last few years warmth reminding one of the weather often has compelled the Ministries that have so swiftly followed one another to secure enhemeral majorities by bargains with individual members or with small groups eight in the morning. We must go back to ering with venal or exacting politicians has now gone on for some time, and with the curious result that in almost every arrondissement, or district, the Deputy has become a petty autocrat, so much the more irresponsible and dangerous that every officeholder in his district, from that of Sub-Prefect down to Justice of the Pence and constable, from the Judge upon the bench and the Prosecutor of the Pleas down to the licensed vender of tobacco, is still ostensibly appointed by the Ministry, while really dictated by himself. The central Governing those abuses of its subordinates for which it is held accountable, while the people, in their self-ruling capacity, have gained nothing by the weakness of the central power. Had they been permitted to elect the innumerable officials whose appointment their Deputy has claudestinely exterted from the Cabinet of the hour, the change would have immensely stimulated the progress of decentralization and of local ties. It is absurd, however, to describe the present state of things as local self-government. It is literally local Casarism. We do not indeed overlook the fact that once in three or four years the voters of a district are invited to go through the form of electing or discarding their petty despot, just as the sham sanction of a plébiscite was occasionally turned to account under the second empire: but it is no less difficult to make the will of the people heard against the local autocrat, whose creatures are intrenched in all the offices of his district, than it was to cope at the polls with the agents of the

Napoleonie despotism. What GAMBETTA said to the Chamber of Deputies was substantially this: In the present anomalous state of things, government in France has become impossible. Either let the whole scheme of administrative centralization be abandoned, let the principle of local self-government be frankly and universally accepted, and let every officeholder in a given district, from the highest to the lowest, be elected by the people; or, if the present centralized system is to be maintained and the Government of the day is to be held accountable for the shortcomings of its agents, then it must hereafter appoint them in fact as well as law. It is time, he thinks, to abolish the régime of local CÆSARS who shirk, before the law and before public opinion, responsibility for the appointments they have privlly extorted from a tottering Cabinet. It is time that Frenchmen should face the alternative of governing themselves or of being governed by a Ministry which commands the confidence of the nation. Inasmuch as no loud demand is heard anywhere in France for a considerable extension of local self-government, Gamberta infers that the people must wish the Ministry to really exert the powers of local control and supervision which the law confers on them, and to that end he proposes to effectually wrest from Deputies their clandestine influence over the public patronage by introducing the scrutin de liste, which would compel candidates to secure a nomination, not from a local caucus, stuffed with their own creatures, but from a convention representing a whole department.

Whatever weight may reasonably be allowed to Gamberra's arguments, it is plain enough that they commend themselves rather to the mass of the French people than to the Deputies whose patronage they would summarily cut off. It is no secret in Paris that many of those who voted against the scrutin de liste were prompted by motives not avowable, and there were probably enough of these to account for GAMBETTA's failure to effect what DEPRETIS has brought

Starving the Primary Schools and Gorging the Sham College.

For the year 1882 the Board of Education asked an appropriation of nearly \$4,000,000. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment did not grant this amount, but allowed \$3,500,000. They tried to save \$10,000 out of the appropriation for the sham College of the City of New York, but the trustees of that precious institution threatened a lawsuit. and the Board voted the whole sum of \$150,-000 for another year rather than have a fight. In his opening speech, the President of the Board of Education declared that the common schools of the upper wards would have to go to the Legislature for relief. They absolutely haven't money enough to run on, while here is the sum of \$150,000 wasted every year on the sham college. What better thing could the Legislature do than to abolish the useless and expensive concern and devote the money thus saved to the

common schools, that need it? Remember, there are nearly 79,000 persons in this town who can neither read nor write. Remember, also, there are thousands upon thousands of children who can find no place in the common schools.

How preposterous to spend money on this sham college, and, for the sake of giving a handful of boys a smattering of the languages, fine arts, and literature, to neglect and leave in the streets the thousands of children who can get no chance to learn the letters of the alphabet!

Abolish the concern. Take the fine large building in Twenty-second street and put it to use at once as a primary school. From the other building in Twenty-third street turn out the ridiculous faculty, with its costly, useless President, and establish unother primary school. Let the Legislature act, and in the interest of the people.

An American Minister to Persia.

There must be somebody somewhere who wants to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the court of the Shah

of Persia. Perhaps it is Stewart L. Woodford. We observe an apparent desire on the part of the Administration to make him uncomfortable in his present office of United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York; and the Republicans, in sympathy with the criticisms telegraphed from Washington, keep talking about his fitness for a foreign

selected as the proper place for this gallant man. It is said that the House Committee on Foreign Affairs is about to report favorably a resolution "requesting the Secretary of State to furnish certain correspondence relating to the pertis and difficulties in which American citizens and missionarles were involved in Persia, with a view of establishing

diplomatic relations with that Government. Now, there is nothing mean about this country. According to the view evidently entertained by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the people of the United States would rather like to spend from twenty-five to fifty thousand dollars a year in maintaining a diplomatic representative to look after ten or twenty of their countrymen in a land which they have no particular occasion to visit, and ought to visit at their own risk, if at all.

But ought not American missionaries to go to Persin ?

This question will naturally be asked. Our answer is, Yes, but not at the public expense. The national Government has no more right to pay out the public money to take care of missionaries, as such, than it has to establish a State religion.

We are sorry for all good men who meet with misfortune in foreign lands, but we cannot approve the proposed establishment of a costly diplomatic service to enable them to prosecute their charitable calling in greater security. If Gen. WOODFORD is to represent the United States abroad, it should not be at Teheran.

The passage of the bill in the Virginia Senment has virtually lost the power of correct- ate, abolishing the whipping post, by the large majority of 23 yeas to 9 nays, makes it almost certain that the other House will concur, and that the bill will become a law. But the very day after the Senate's action, a Lynchburg Judge sentenced a housebreaker to 156 lashes on his bare back-to be taken in two installments, probably lest the whole dose at once should kill him. If this should be the last infliction under the barbarous statute, it will certainly go out with a most vigorous flourish The downfail of the whipping post in the Old Dominion is likely to be permanent, for full trial has been made of it and it has borne bloody fruits.

Another great comet is to rush out of the north and astonish the world in the latter part of this month according to the Kentucky astronomer, Prof. KLEIN. He says it will appear near the Great Bear, a region that has been fruitful of comets. Prof. KLEIN claims to have seen the great comet of last summer four months earlier than any other astronomer, and he gave a wonderful account of its appearance.

The Philadelphia Record has a very appropriate article upon the wonderful variety of timepleces owned by Mr. G. W. CHILDS, A. M. There are a great number of them, and they are very costly and very astonishing. It is a most interesting collection; but when we think of the gifts of mind which Mr. CHILDS possesses, of the imagination, the sentiment, the sweet fertility of sadness which characterize his productions all these clocks and watches appear as comparatively worthless. When the timepieces have mouldered to dust and are forgetten, the verse of Philadelphia's famous obituary bard will still be remembered and appreciated.

The Descent of Property.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If a man dies without a will, leaving no widow or children, who sentitled to his property-his parents or his brothers NEW YORK, Peb. 9.

If he leaves neither children nor descendants of children, his personal property, after his debts are paid, will go to his father, or, if the father is dead, will be distributed in equal shares to the mother and the brothers and sisters.

Real estate goes to the father unless the intestate inherited it on the part of his mother. Even in that case, if the mother is dead, the father takes a life interest, with reversion to the brothers and sisters. If the father is dead, or, as in the case just mentioned, is not entitled to take, the mother takes a life interest, with reversion to the brothers and sisters.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Please an-Please answer in your paper, and greatly oblice Downer City, Cal. Jan 19. William L. STEELE,

We must advise our correspondent to consult more fully the supreme authority from which he quotes:

Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee. Ye must be born anew. The wind bloweth where it listeth and thou bearest the voice thereof, but knowest not whence it cometh nor whither it goeth. So severy one that is born of the Spirit.

A Wife's Appeal.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I owe a I don't care so much about the effect it has had on my son and daughter, but I think it's ridiculous for a sedate middle aged man like my instant to get a wig to put the proper length of hair over his baid head. What shall I do?

If we were not afraid to introduce disintegrating influences into a family, we would suggest that one finger properly applied to that wig would be enough to make the gentleman "a commonplace young man" again, just as

We Set a Correspondent's Mind at Rest. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A friend

came to my window and said, "I will bet I can coak you to jump through this window." I wish to know if I reflice to jump does be win, also if I do jump are the above words according to the rules of grantmar. Yes Youk, Feb. II. I if you refuse to jump you will win the let and pre-

The Sty is always proud to be selected as referee in

any question demanting for its determination clear judgment and finished scholarship.

Russin's Reply to England.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIGE England shingly reprehends Russia for the persecution of the Jews. Savage, cruel, and barbarous such persontion is; but the slayer of all belyiess nations is not the one to lecture Russia or any other power on moral or political conduct. The can sets not upon scenes of slaughter by the English. Every field from Ireland to nindestat has been covered with the gore of men, we men, and children, foully murdered for plinder's sake. The Califol's the tactions has left the red footprints of her banding upon every continent but the hyperisy of high morality and enlightened humanity must be kept up: hence the Pharisaical "thank that we are not like those Russian brutes." But Bussia has a backbraider, and back in the teeth of England her press now flinged. taxining Ireland with the most gaining sheets at the generatical feasibel.
New York, 14th it.

The Elmira Reformatory.

there, and I assure you that I never saw anything in I here and I Assure you had a new as an all a second at crame. I can get eding the organization in the dead from don't faren this away, but a new and and a seal arise.

Discourtesy at the Gutteau Trial.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Size Belling a chosen to Mr Scoville is something that is unknown to the bar in the south. The inseres here are assumed at if the untraceous abuse brajed upon him would not be admitted by law ers here. Dakinggros, S. c. Feb. S.

Sanitary Inspection of Houses. New York - ddr. Sanifacy Engineer, 11

SUNBEAMS.

-The income of Talmage's Tabernacle for

-Six healthy Baptist churches have grown out of one at Minneapolis, which was organized in 1833

-St. Paul, Minn., is to have a fifty-thousand-dollar Christian seminary for young ladies. It is to provide unsectarian education of the highest order. -Although more than half the Baptist churches in the State of New York report no baptisms

for 1881, the 874 which do report foot up a total of 3,539 -Evangelist Harrison is still arousing the

Methodist churches of Cincinnati. The movement, which began in fashionable St. Paul's, has extended to a num er of the suburban churches.

-Evangelists Whittle and McGranahan have been inhoring with great success at Sacramento and have now opened their services in the Howard Presbyterian Church, San Francisco. -There are in Paris 92 Sunday schools.

with Sib teachers and 7,500 scholars. Many of these schools use the international series of lessons, for which esson papers and other expository helps are published n French -Surrey Chapel will always be famous as he place where Rowland Hill did his best work. But it

is no longer to be a house of worship. It will soon be converted into a machine shop and a factory for the building of steam engines. -The Congregational church at Oshkosh Wis. is happy in the possession and opening of a new parsonage. The ladies of the church surprised Pastor Anderson and his wife by furnishing the house com-

pletely in every detail from cellar to roof.

—Brother Podd takes charge of the Olivet Saptist Church, Chicago, which has a colored congregation. He is a native of the West Indies, and he received a liberal education with a view to entering the ministry of the Church of England. He is a very eloquent speaker, and in his pulpit ministrations far above mos

.- The Rev. C. H. Everest has completed five years of useful and prosperous pastorate of the Plymouth Church of Chicago. He resigns in order to take needed rest, and will not for the present accept any pastoral call. During his pastorate debts amounting to about \$70,000 have been paid. Mr. Everest was formerly pastor of the Puritan Church in Brooklyn, in which capacity he made many warm friends.

-The Central Presbyterian Church of Noristown, Pa., was not in its past history a very stylish one. But it now puts on style by stepping up into the ranks of the churches which distinguish the alling pastors from over the water. The Rev. Mr. Mc Askie of Ireland was on a visit to this country, and preached to the edification of the Central Church. It is understood that he accepts the call.

-Bishop Coxe of the Protestant Episcopal diocess of Western New York has written a letter in which he warns the people of his diocese against taking any religious paper published outside of the diocese. This cuts off all the Episcopal papers but one or two, and all but one or two of other denominations. But the Eishop does not recognize any as religious sheets unless published by his own denomination.

—Major Cole of Chicago is an evangelist of

worldwide fame, who has done efficient work in the principal cities of England and Scotland, as well as in those of this country. He has consented to hold a series of revival meetings at Talmage's Tabernacle, which will begin on Monday, the 27th of this month, and continue as long as the interest keeps up. Last year's revival ser vices were under the charge of Philip Phillips, the sing ing evangelist. The previous year's revival was engi neered by the celebrated "Boy Preacher," Harrison Major Cole is an crator of great power and magne He is also a good singer. It is expected that he will draw

-The Rev. Mr. Zabriskie is paster of a church at Mount Sinai, Loug Island. On a recent Sun day, just as he had arisen from the pulpit sofs to begin the service, the plaster from the ceiling suddenly fell and overwhelmed the place where he had been sitting The crash was so great as to carry the thoughts of the congregation back to that memorable time when ancien Israel stood around the mountain which was darkened by clouds and made terrible by thunderings about its summit. The reverend gentleman had a narrow escape from being crushed to death. He has received two calls from other churches, and is undecided as to which one to accept.

-- It is announced that one of the attractions at this afternoon's service of the French Mission on Bleecker street will be the marriage of a French gen tleman and lady who have been converted at the mis sion. It is strange that pastors have not more frequently thought of this sort of thing as an attraction to people who do not care much for preaching. By giving notice that the wedding will take place after the preaching, and that nobody shall see it who has not been present to hear the sermon, a large crowd could almost always be gathered. And yet there are some churches where the preaching is so dull that even the attraction of a wed

ding would not be considered sufficient compensation for the penance of listening to a sermon. -The Rev. Richard H. Cain is a colored man, and he is a Bishop in the African Methodist Epis-copal Church, His field of labor comprises Texas and Louisiana He and his wife were travelling on a Texas railroad, and they sought to be admitted into a first class car. This seemed to them but reasonable as they had paid first class fare. The conductor rudely of dered them into the other car, which was a combination of bargage car and smoker. For this indignity the Bishop has instituted a suit against the railroad com pany, fixing their damages at \$20,000. The Caristian Recorder, which is the organ of the African Church, save that this is an insult offered to the whole Church, and that if needs be every member of that commun

should come to Bishop Cain's help in order to carry the

case up to the highest court and secure justice -When the mob in Sheffield assaulted the Salvation Army, it was thought that if tien, and Mra Booth were to ride in a carriage at the head of the pro cession, it might have a civilizing effect on the ruffians and soften their wicked hearts. But it was found to be of no avail. Then two more carriages were procured for other officers of the "Army," and these led the way, accompanied by a band of music. There was also a "converted wrestler," a muscular sort of person who was supposed to have muscle amough to put down all opposition. But even over all this imposing parade the vio-ience of the Sheffield mob triumphed. Mud. bricks, and decayed vegetables were thrown at the Salvationists to them. The "converted wrestler," who was mounted on borseback, and dressed in scarlet, found himself unable his war horse, and battered so badly that he was carried in a very exhausted condition to a hospital. The proba-bility is that thes champion of evaluations will not recover. The police of Shellield did not furnish any ma-terial assistance. They do not sympathize with the sai vation Army, but, on the contrary, regard it as a nut sance So it is in other British cities

"Christ's Foes and Friends" forms the subject of to-day's International Sunday school lesson, the passage being Mark hi, 20-35. The labors of Christ tained ilim were interrupted. His friends undertook b check him. Many said that its was beside itimself. The scribes came to overwhelm itim with their questions. If you do jump you will lose your money, your reputs | and to confuse it in with their arguments. They endeas tion, and perhaps your life.

Ored to represent Him as in league with devils for the it. Your friend's sentence is grammatical whether you tilest purposes. He answered them with questions which put them to shame and confusion. By a most happy illustration He showed His power over Satur, and His ability to belo all who put their trust in Him. He promised parden of the sensed all who would truly forsake their evid ways and turn to Him. In the crowd and collection, a message was brought to Him that His mother and brethren desired to speak with Him. This affected appearantly for a pointed besson. He told the multirals that His mother and brethren the His affected appearantly for a pointed besson. He told the multirals that His "mother and brethren" (that is to say those who were his nearest and choicest friends; were who were the most sincerely obedient to the will-Here He drew the line between His friends and His fors There were those high in station in Jewish society who would not have wanted to be entolled among his ene mics especially how in the day of His great popularity But many of these were friendly only in name and profession. They would not take any risk for Him, not would they confess Him in their hearts. The "Golder Text" of the lesson obviously points the teaching of st erance to these people. It says, "He that is not with Me is against Mc." This passage may be accepted as a Me is against Me

aummary of the teaching of the whole lesson. ... The rights of one who pays rent for a pew in a church have been the subject of a most mist esting judienii decision in Canada. At St. Thomas a ma-The Einites Reformatory.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Size I hope the other persons in charcle by using it as a partial formation of the sun of th manifered to the Livingston and all who take an in which to someor and to shore. It was not even to the Limita Reformatory. I spent two years against quiet should that there your persons of persons ed, for it is admitted that makey on them slept t to time during the preacher's discourses. They dress he has on shoring. It so happened that the objectional of pow rentar developed such producings talent in the was of snoring as to introduce a moverty in this line the in-stitute of which and may been suspected by his top of worshippers. He made such a holes that they sould neither worship in columness for listen to the sermida with any hope of temp whiled. Therefore they remain strated with him and fried to persuade him to stay at himse He reposed that it was the duty of exery Christian must be attend church, and that he meant to do he duty in that respect; and he contended that he would be althe more until and he contented that he would be all the more until a long in the fire hance of that duty is a count of having relied a pew and part pew rest for the same. The trip counts people or empt an activitie law to compectate school of a lot the trip and of anothing or to stap away. After proteined intradact of anothing or to stap away, after proteined intradact of anothing or to stap away, after proteined intradact to see this green just as to would use a facilities a short or our facilities as the country of the same proteins. Weak lines are cruelly racked and the general strongth gradually wasted by a persistent deep scated count which by Jayles & Reperturant may be record on the curve with the persistent of the persistent of the curve with decree certain benefit from it also if troubled with either askins or brotchists—45%.